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## APRIL MEETING, 1889.

THE Annual Meeting was held on the 11th instant, the President, Dr. ELLIS, being in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read by the Recording Secretary, and was approved.

The list of donations to the Library for the past month was presented by the Librarian.

The PRESIDENT said that since the last meeting this Society had lost two honored and useful Corresponding Members,—Prof. William Gammell, of Providence, the President of the Rhode Island Historical Society; and Mr. William C. Rives, of Richmond, an efficient member of the Virginia Historical Society.

Mr. Thornton K. Lothrop, of Boston, was elected a Resident Member of the Society.

Mr. C. C. SMITH, in behalf of the committee of publication of Winthrop Papers, announced a new volume containing the correspondence of Gov. Fitz-John Winthrop, accompanied by a heliotype copy of an original portrait of him. The same committee was authorized to prepare another volume of Winthrop Papers.

A new serial, containing the proceedings from December, 1888, to March, 1889, was ready for members at this meeting.

Dr. DEANE, chairman of the committee appointed to consider the expediency of publishing any papers in the possession of the Society relevant to the organization of the National Government, reported that a large number of manuscripts had been examined, but he was satisfied that there was not material sufficient for a volume, and he asked to have the committee discharged.

Dr. GREEN made the following remarks:—

Through the courtesy of Mr. Henry F. Waters, a copy of Maverick's Account of New England was furnished to the Society, and printed in the Proceedings (page 236) for October, 1884. This interesting old manuscript is supposed to

have been written about the year 1660, and describes nearly all the towns of that period lying east of the Hudson River. After speaking of Salem, Maverick refers to another well-known place in Massachusetts, as follows:—

*Marblehead or Foy.*—Two miles below this Towne on the Southside of the Harbo<sup>r</sup> by the sea side lyeth Marblehead or ffoy the greatest Towne for ffishing in New England.

Mr. Roads, the historian of Marblehead, tells me that he has never heard of the second name or synonyme of that town, as used by Maverick, and that he has no idea of its origin. The word has been a riddle to the local antiquaries, and I venture to suggest a possible solution.

The General Court of Massachusetts Bay, at a session beginning May 22, 1639, made a large grant of land to Hugh Peters, for services rendered to the Colony; and this tract fell within the bounds of Salem and Marblehead. Peters was born at Fowey (pronounced Foy), Cornwall, England, which renders it highly probable that the name was derived from that town. It is said that the Trefry family, who were among the early settlers of Marblehead, came also from Fowey; and furthermore Hugh Peters's mother was Martha, daughter of John Treffry, Esq., of Place House, which is still the residence of the family. The mansion stands immediately above the town, and contains, besides other objects of interest, an original portrait of the old Puritan chaplain.

The business of the Annual Meeting was then taken up, and the customary reports were presented.

#### *Report of the Council.*

For more than eighty years the Government of the Society was composed of its officers and of a body (originally of three, afterwards of five members) who were designated as the "Standing Committee," and charged with important functions, among which was that of making an Annual Report. In December, 1873, this Standing Committee was abolished, and the Government of the Society was intrusted to thirteen members, namely, the eight officers of the Society *ex officio*, and five members at large, who, in conjunction with the said

officers, constituted what was then styled the "Standing Committee or Council," — the said five members at large being assigned no separate authority or functions. In December, 1881, the By-Laws were again revised, when the words "Standing Committee" were stricken out altogether, the thirteen governing members being thenceforth simply styled the "Council." In all printed lists of the Society, however, since 1878 inclusive, these five members at large have been termed the "Executive Committee of the Council," — a designation which appears to be a misleading misnomer, since it is not warranted by any article in the By-Laws, nor authorized, so far as I can find out, by any vote of the Society, nor is there any record that such a Committee ever held a meeting. There exists, however, an impression that this so-called Executive Committee has something to do with the preparation of the Annual Report of the Council, and this has led seven of my eight immediate predecessors to affix the word "Chairman" to their signatures to successive Annual Reports, as was formerly the custom when such reports were presented by the now extinct Standing Committee. The By-Laws recognize but one person entitled to affix this word "Chairman" to his name in any similar communication, and this is the President of the Society, who is expressly declared to be *ex officio* Chairman of the Council. So far from the preparation of the Annual Report being intrusted to a Committee, such a contingency is distinctly guarded against. Nothing can be clearer than Article 9, of Chapter XII., which says: "They [the Council] shall make an annual report, to be drawn up by *that one* of the members at large who has had the longest term of service." It would seem as if the framers of this article must have had in view the possibility that a time might come when no two members of the Council would be able to agree on any subject, and they accordingly thought best to assign this duty to a single pen. On the other hand, it is obvious that a report ostensibly made on behalf of thirteen gentlemen must go through the form of being submitted to them before its presentation to the Society; but it has been ingeniously arranged that this formal submission shall take place at that meeting of the Council which is held less than an hour before the Annual Meeting of the Society, and when there is so much other business to be transacted that there is little time to debate a report, still less to

remodel or amend it. The result is that what is nominally *the* Annual Report of the Council is practically *an* Annual Report by the senior member at large of that body, and for this reason I have been by no means careful to confine my remarks to the third person.

Our volumes of Proceedings enable us to consult these Reports, whether of the Council or of the Standing Committee, from the year 1855 until the present time. No one who will take the trouble to read them through consecutively, as I have done, can fail to notice a material change in their character of late years. The earlier Reports dwelt exclusively upon the actual condition of the Society, and what had taken place in it during its corporate year. Subsequently the custom arose — and a very appropriate one it was — of introducing some incidental and appreciative allusions to any important historical work accomplished by individual members during the same period. These incidental allusions gradually became more and more elaborate, until for the past three years they have culminated in the insertion of lists, prepared in the Librarian's office, minutely cataloguing everything known to have been printed by individual members during the corporate year, — an enumeration which has absorbed more than half of these Reports and constituted their most prominent feature. I cannot, I confess, regard this as an altogether satisfactory state of things. The literary labors of our associates are always interesting to themselves, and often valuable to others; but they do not immediately concern this Society in its corporate capacity. The following passage from the Report, in 1884, of one of the most accomplished of my predecessors (Professor Haynes), might with advantage be conspicuously inscribed upon these walls: "While gratefully acknowledging the merit of the literary work that has been accomplished during the past year by our different members, we cannot help regretting that a larger proportion of this skill and labor has not been bestowed upon our own publications." I therefore prefer to display the exotics in the background, and have furnished one of the lists in question only in the form of an appendix.

Since the last Annual Report the Society has had the misfortune to lose no less than four Resident Members. The first who died, the Hon. Henry Morris, of Springfield, was known to us only as having been President of the Connecticut Valley

Historical Society, and a Judge, the distance at which he lived from Boston rendering his participation in our work impracticable. If, however, we are to maintain our reputation as a State in distinction from a local organization, we must not forget from time to time to elect such men. The second was that famous preacher and accomplished scholar, Dr. James Freeman Clarke, whose benignant presence was familiar in this hall, where he was always listened to with interest and respect. The third, the venerable William Amory, was a fine example of a class of persons from whom it has been the invariable practice occasionally to recruit our numbers, and without whom the Society would lose one of its distinctive features; namely, gentlemen of agreeable companionship, cultivation, and public spirit, not necessarily students or writers of history, but disposed to appreciate and promote such pursuits. Mr. Amory was a regular attendant at our meetings so long as his health permitted; and he did not forget, as some of our rich members have done, to leave behind him here a most agreeable reminder, in the shape of a legacy of three thousand dollars to our permanent funds. Our most recent bereavement has been the sudden death of Mr. Henry Austin Whitney, whose name has been on our roll for a much longer period than the three others I have mentioned, but who, unlike them, was still in the full enjoyment of physical and intellectual vigor. The absorbing cares of great railroad interests long ago cut short the services he had begun to render us; but he had recently encouraged us to hope that some portion of his recovered leisure would be devoted to our work.

We have had the additional misfortune to lose three Corresponding Members: Mr. Ephraim George Squier, author of works upon Central America and Peru; Prof. William Gammell, President of the Rhode Island Historical Society; and Mr. William Cabell Rives, formerly a much esteemed resident of Boston, and of late years one of the most active members of the Virginia Historical Society, of which his distinguished father, of the same name, was long President.

During the same period the Society has elected two Resident Members, Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart, of Cambridge, and Mr. Thornton Kirkland Lothrop, of Boston. No Honorary or Corresponding Member has been elected. The number of

vacancies upon the Resident roll is three; the number of names entered in the book in which members record their preferences for nominations is about fifty. It would be an affectation not to allude to the wide differences of opinion as to candidacies existing both in the Council and in the Society. It has become very difficult to procure the requisite assent of seven members of the Council to any nomination; and it is unnecessary to dwell upon the well-known fact that nominations submitted by the Council sometimes fail of securing a sufficient number of grains of corn at a balloting. However undesirable, from some points of view, this state of things may be, it at least indicates a commendable degree of active interest in the subject. Perhaps the worst fate which can befall a small society is when its members grow indifferent to the manner in which vacancies are filled.

The satisfactory financial condition of the Society is described in detail in the printed Report this day laid upon the table; though there is one item which the Treasurer has not furnished, but which we ought none the less to recognize with gratitude, — the fact that our pecuniary independence is largely due to the pains and skill with which he has administered our property for twelve years past. There remains, however, what is practically a debt of about \$26,000, that being the balance of our permanent funds still invested in this building; and no effort should be relaxed to clear off this encumbrance within a reasonable time.

During the past corporate year the Society has held nine monthly meetings; those for July, August, and September having been, as usual, omitted. No extra meetings have been called. The last special meeting, by invitation of a member, occurred three years ago; the last evening meeting, by similar invitation, thirteen years ago. The number of members present at the monthly meetings has fluctuated, as heretofore, between twenty and forty; the average attendance having been thirty-two, which is as large as can fairly be expected. Not quite so favorable a report can be made of the material for history contributed to these gatherings. Some interesting and valuable communications have been made; but on the whole, as compared with previous years, there has been a perceptible falling-off in the importance of the papers presented by the different sections. When so many gentlemen, most of them busy

men, take the trouble to climb these stairs once a month, it is very desirable that they should not be disappointed in the entertainment provided, whether in the way of historical information or historical discussion. The fact that our revered President so rarely finds time to favor us with one of those introductory addresses which no one is more competent than he to prepare, and upon which in former years we somewhat relied, should be an additional incentive to individual members to endeavor now and then to write out some communication, no matter how short it may be. Such utterances serve a purpose beyond the immediate gratification of those who listen to them; they meet the eye of a wide circle of readers in our volumes, where they are preserved for permanent reference.

In this connection it is the duty of the Council to signalize to the Society the regrettable *lacunæ* that disfigure its series of biographies of deceased members. When one of these memoirs is assigned, it is with the understanding that the member who accepts this duty may, if he sees fit, allow several years to elapse before discharging it; but, on the other hand, it is far from being intended that so long an interval should occur that, as has sometimes happened, before a member has handed in a memoir assigned him he should become the subject of one himself. In the case of distinguished men, the particulars of whose career are to be found in other works of reference, such deficiencies, though objectionable, are not without a remedy; but in the case of some member little known to the public at large, who has been a conspicuous personality in this building and has rendered us important services, the omission is alike unjust, ungrateful, and inconvenient. The most lamentable instance of it is that of the Hon. Francis C. Gray, a man of exceptional cultivation and decided originality,—one of the most useful members we ever had, who died thirty-three years ago. His memoir is recorded to have been first assigned to his particular friend, the historian Ticknor, who followed him to the grave fourteen years later without being known to have written a line of it. After a certain interval it was reassigned to one of our associates, who wields a very attractive pen and who is understood to have remarked that the preparation of this biographical notice would be to him a labor of love; but this was evidently not an example of that true love which Seneca defines as spurning



all delays, as year after year passes away leaving us apparently as far as ever from the promised tribute.

The publications of the Society during the past year have been ample and varied. They consist as follows:—

1. On the part of the Committee charged with editing the Proceedings (Messrs. E. J. Young, C. H. Hill, and A. McKenzie), three serial numbers, aggregating some 250 pages of what, when completed, will constitute Vol. IV. of our Second Series of Proceedings; the said three serials containing, with other matter, communications of value from Messrs. Winthrop, Paige, Deane, Green, Quincy, Smith, Chamberlain, Everett, Winsor, Haynes, Slafter, and Wolcott, together with some interesting memorials of deceased members by Dr. Holmes, Dr. Peabody, and others.

2. On the part of the Committee on the Trumbull Papers (Messrs. W. Warren, H. F. Jenks, and G. B. Chase), Part II. of the selections from those papers, together with a general index to the Fifth Series of Collections,—the whole forming a volume of some 550 pages, numbered X. of the Fifth Series.

3. On the part of the Committee on the Correspondence of Chief-Justice Sewall (Messrs. M. Chamberlain, C. H. Hill, A. B. Ellis, and J. M. Bugbee), Part II. of Sewall's Letter-Book, a volume of 380 pages, numbered II. of the Sixth Series of Collections.

4. On the part of the Committee on the Winthrop Papers (Messrs. C. C. Smith, R. C. Winthrop, Jr., and E. Channing), Part V. of the selections from those papers, consisting chiefly of matter associated either with Fitz-John Winthrop or with Joseph Dudley,—forming a volume of about 600 pages, numbered III. of the Sixth Series of Collections.

The aggregate number of volumes of the Society's Collections is now fifty-three; of Proceedings, twenty-three. This does not include the separate volume of Lectures by members of the Society upon the early history of Massachusetts, nor the volume wholly devoted to a general index to the First Series of Proceedings, nor the unfinished volume of Proceedings just alluded to. In some recent volumes of Collections the time-honored custom of furnishing a list of the Society's members, in their several classes, has been disregarded. These lists are often convenient for reference, and it may be well to mention that their omission is known to occasion regret.

During the past year, also, the Society has partially revised its By-Laws, reviving some old rules governing elections, incorporating into the text certain formalities latterly in use in making nominations, limiting the number of Honorary and Corresponding Members, and establishing for the first time a Committee whose duty it is to examine annually into the condition of the Library and Cabinet. I am not certain whether this new Committee is to-day ready with a report, nor am I at all aware how far they may be disposed to criticise a state of things which has long been a source of embarrassment and perplexity. In any case, I hold it to be the urgent duty of a senior member at large of the Council to make some reference to a subject which is of the utmost importance to our well-being, and concerning the best manner of dealing with which there is room for wide differences of opinion. It is within the knowledge of some of us that the Society is in danger of losing, if indeed it has not already lost, important gifts of books and pictures, owing to a justifiable fear that the crowded state of our rooms will prevent such objects from being worthily bestowed and from receiving proper care. The portraits already accumulated, some of them not merely historic but unique, have, with a few exceptions, been gradually driven out upon the damp, insecure walls of a public stairway, or banished to the obscurity of a rarely visited upper story, where, in order to provide shelf-room for public documents of questionable value, some of them have to be piled upon the floor. Our Library, which for our own purposes is in many respects the best in New England, is so choked with heterogeneous accretions that much of it is difficult of access. We occupy three floors of a spacious building, but we enjoy no facilities for literary work. There is no place where any publishing committee of this Society can comfortably attend to its duties. The room in which we are assembled is appropriately used for the informal gathering and familiar conversation of such members as may look in from day to day. The outer room is necessarily an office. A member desirous of concentrating his attention upon historical research would naturally seek the spiral stairway which conducts to the floor above. But if in his innocence he does so, he emerges upon a disheartening scene of seemingly hopeless confusion and disorder which almost beggars description. I am careful to use this

word "seemingly," because I have not the smallest doubt that the Librarian and his swift-footed assistants are familiar with the intricacies of this Gargantuan storeroom, and that for them little is here hid which cannot with some trouble be revealed. But it is no exaggeration to say that members who desire to find their own authorities and consult them on the spot are appalled by such surroundings. If they be persevering men who, indifferent to the soiling of their clothes, can thread their way through piles of books and mounds of dusty newspapers, they will eventually descry, in the inmost *penetralia* of these apartments, two small tables and two wooden chairs; but even this inadequate accommodation is half the time denied them, as the tables in question are frequently appropriated by the Society's copyists.

Now, who, it may be asked, is to blame for all this? The Librarian? Not he. The Cabinet-keeper? Still less. These functionaries would like nothing better than to make our rooms as convenient and attractive as they ought to be; but they are handicapped by usages of the Society, — usages which grew up long before they were in office, long before they were even members, when the Library and Cabinet were small and space was no object, and which appear to prescribe that we should receive nearly everything which any one chooses to send us, including books and pamphlets upon every conceivable subject, historical or otherwise, and wholly without regard to existing accommodations. Such a course is all very well for great National, Municipal, or University Libraries, or for those which are fortunate enough to enjoy exceptionally large endowments; but I contend it to be a profoundly mistaken one in the case of a small society, which is practically a sort of Literary Club, the object of which should be not so much to amass printed matter for posterity as to minister to the intellectual comfort of its living members and furnish them with agreeable facilities for historical research. We have numbered many associates who were noted for the rarity and excellence of their collections of books, though their tastes did not all lie in the same direction. To say nothing of the libraries of some of our present members, those of Mr. George Livermore, Mr. Edward Crowninshield, Mr. Prescott, Mr. Everett, Mr. Ticknor, and Mr. Charles Francis Adams will readily occur to us. These gentlemen had no ambition to erect to

themselves a monument of a quarter of a million of pamphlets, nor did they allow themselves to be environed by heaps of unbound newspapers or piles of imperfect sets of contemporary magazines. They aimed first at a complete working library of reference, and then at the quality rather than the quantity of their accumulations,—endeavoring to obtain what was rare and valuable, discarding what they had no room for. Why might we not have done the same? We were asked to do it. So far back as June, 1855, the then Standing Committee made a memorable Report, which by some misunderstanding was not printed in the first edition of the Proceedings of that year, but which was subsequently inserted in a small second edition of that volume. They called attention to great quantities of pamphlets which, they said, required thorough examination before “it can be known what is of sufficient value to retain, or what should be otherwise disposed of.” They invited the Society to “disburthen itself of much, at least, of this mass of cumbrous matter not immediately akin to our pursuits;” and they questioned “how far it is desirable to embrace within our field of labor any considerable number of miscellaneous periodicals, when we know that many other societies and institutions amongst us make those branches special subjects of attention.” They evidently contemplated not merely a very thorough weeding of what we then owned, but a much more careful discrimination in the matter of future accessions; and if this sound advice of thirty-four years ago had been persistently followed, what a difference it might have made in the comfort, the usefulness, and the credit of our Library and Cabinet at the present day! I hear it sometimes asserted that we have “outgrown” our present quarters. To my mind, you might as well say that a man who has overeaten has outgrown his stomach. It is not the space, but the system, which is at fault. Even if we were rich enough to sacrifice the rent we get for the two lower stories of this building, and occupy the whole of it, we should obtain no permanent relief with the present methods of accumulation. Even if we were already in possession of the fund which, under the will of a deceased member, may come to us in the remote future,—if we already saw rising the walls of that new home which not six of us, probably not three of us, will live to enter,—we should still, under similar conditions, be event-

ually confronted by a similar problem. It is one that might easily be solved now. If we had the courage to weed our Cabinet of spurious relics and trivial gifts; if we had the courage to weed our Library of at least thirty per cent of the least appropriate of our bound volumes, and of at least sixty per cent of the most worthless of our unbound pamphlets and periodicals; if we had the nerve to set our faces sternly against the hoarding of miscellaneous matter, to discontinue our cumbrous clearing-house for heterogeneous exchanges, and be hereafter as discriminating in what we receive inside this building as we try to be in our selection of members, maintaining only a comparatively select library of subjects akin to our pursuits;—if, I say, we had the resolution to do all this, we could at no great expense so remodel and rearrange these three floors as to make them for at least a generation to come one of the choicest and most convenient repositories of rare historical material and valuable historical portraits in the country. I am well aware how extremely improbable it is that you will consider favorably so radical a measure of reform; and while I do not relinquish hope that some scheme of partial amelioration may soon be devised and acted upon, yet it will not surprise me if you continue to shrug your shoulders and try to make the best of things a few years longer. Nor is it unlikely that some of you may console yourselves with the idea that the senior member at large of the Council, instead of congratulating you, as is customary, upon the general prosperity of the Society, has tried to signalize his retirement from office by inflicting upon you a sensational and pessimistic Report. All that I have done, however, has been to call your attention, in this formal manner, to complaints which have been whispered for years. It is but a few months ago that one of the most eminent of our number wrote me a very earnest letter on this subject. “The Society,” he pathetically said, “is in the predicament of Sinbad the Sailor. An Old Man of the Sea has fastened himself upon its vitals, and is throttling it to death!” This picturesque metaphor was not, as might be supposed, intended to apply to our venerable President,—nor, as might alternatively be suggested, to our esteemed Librarian. My correspondent went on to explain that he meant by it “those bad habits and bad customs which have so long prevailed, and so got the upper hand, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate them.”

Some of you may be startled by the plainness of this criticism; others of you may, in part, deny its justice; but not one of you, who has the interest of the Society at heart, should fail to accord it some degree of careful and dispassionate consideration.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

ROBERT C. WINTHROP, JR.,  
*Senior member at large of the Council.*

APRIL 11, 1889.

Separate publications of Resident Members during the corporate year, 1888-1889:—

The Inter-State Commerce Act: its Operations and its Results. Address at the dinner of the Commercial Club, Boston, Dec. 15, 1888. By Charles Francis Adams.

The Siege of Newport. A Poem. By Thomas C. Amory.

Charles River. A Poem. By Thomas C. Amory.

Miscellaneous Poems. By Thomas C. Amory.

The Working of the American Democracy. An Address delivered before Φ B K Fraternity of Harvard University, June 28, 1888. By Charles W. Eliot.

The Church and the Parish in Massachusetts. Address at the 250th Anniversary of the First Church in Dedham, Nov. 19, 1888. By George E. Ellis.

Essays, Religious, Social, Political. With a biographical sketch of their author (David Atwood Wasson) by Octavius B. Frothingham.

Groton Historical Series. Numbers 5 to 12, of Volume II. By Samuel Abbott Green.

Travellers and Outlaws: Episodes in American History. By Thomas W. Higginson.

Before the Curfew, and Other Poems. By Oliver Wendell Holmes.

The Federalist, reprinted from the original Text. Edited by Henry Cabot Lodge.

American Statesmen (Martin Van Buren). Edited by John T. Morse, Jr.

The Peckster Professorship: an Episode in the History of Psychical Research. By Josiah P. Quincy.

American Commonwealths (Missouri, Indiana, and Ohio). Edited by Horace E. Scudder.

The Diocese of Massachusetts: its Historical Acquisitions and Wants. By Edmund F. Slafter.

How a Protectionist became a Free-Trader. An address delivered before the Massachusetts Reform Club, Feb. 9, 1889. By Winslow Warren.

Volumes I. and VII. of that monumental work, the "Narrative and Critical History of America." Edited by Justin Winsor.

On motion of Mr. C. C. SMITH this Report was referred for action to the next Council.

*Report of the Librarian.*

During the year there have been added to the Library :—

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Books . . . . .                         | 571         |
| Pamphlets . . . . .                     | 3,658       |
| Volumes of newspapers . . . . .         | 17          |
| Unbound volumes of newspapers . . . . . | 31          |
| Broadsides . . . . .                    | 187         |
| Maps . . . . .                          | 70          |
| Volumes of manuscripts . . . . .        | 4           |
| Manuscripts . . . . .                   | 164         |
| In all . . . . .                        | <hr/> 4,702 |

Of the books added, 478 have been given, 89 bought, and 4 obtained by exchange. Of the pamphlets added, 3,282 have been given, 91 bought, and 285 procured by exchange.

From the income of the Savage Fund, there have been bought 89 volumes and 91 pamphlets.

From the income of the William Winthrop Fund, 27 volumes have been bound.

Of the books added to the Rebellion Department, 27 have been given and 49 bought; and of the pamphlets added, 132 have been given and 46 bought. There are now in this collection 1,673 volumes, 4,258 pamphlets, 766 broadsides, and 88 maps.

In the collection of manuscripts there are now 725 volumes, 160 unbound volumes, 75 pamphlets with manuscript notes, and 6,332 manuscripts.

The Library contains at the present time about 33,500 volumes, including the files of bound newspapers, the bound manuscripts, and the Dowse Collection. The number of pamphlets, including duplicates, is 88,021; and the number of broadsides, including duplicates, is 3,211.

During the year there have been taken out 48 books and 3 pamphlets, and all have been returned.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL A. GREEN, *Librarian.*

Boston, April 11, 1889.

*Report of the Cabinet-keeper.*

The Cabinet-keeper begs leave to report that there have been presented to the Cabinet during the past year several articles of interest, including engravings, photographs, heliotypes, medals, and a few articles of a miscellaneous character, a list of which is appended.

An etching of Caleb Strong, by Albert Rosenthal, after a painting by Gilbert Stuart. Given by Mr. Rosenthal.

A photograph of a portrait in wax of Caleb Strong, made for Thomas Sumner of Brookline, and now in the Free Public Library of New Bedford. Given by Robert C. Ingraham.

An engraving of William Pynchon, by J. A. J. Wilcox. Given by Rev. Thomas R. Pynchon.

Three engravings of Daniel Webster,—one taken from the painting by J. Ames, one taken at the age of twenty-five, and the third from the monument in Central Park, New York. Given by J. A. J. Wilcox.

A continental bill of one sixth of a dollar, 1776; a Rhode Island bill of one thirty-sixth of a dollar, 1777; and three United States coins, half-cents of 1804, 1808, and 1809. Given by Charles C. Smith.

A volume containing thirteen portraits of American legislators, patriots, and soldiers, drawn from life, by Du Simitière. Given by Edward Bangs.

A heliotype of a pen-and-ink sketch of George Washington, made by J. Hiller, Jr., on the back of the King of Clubs in 1794. Given by Charles W. Darling.

A bronze medal of the Humane Society of Massachusetts. Given by the Humane Society.

A photograph, by J. A. J. Wilcox, of a miniature of Benjamin Franklin, by Joseph S. Duplessis, in the possession of his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Gillespie, of Philadelphia. Given by Dr. Fitch Edward Oliver.

A Virginia bill of one sixth of a dollar, 1777, and a five dollar bill of the Confederate States of America. Given by Charles C. Smith.

A large framed photograph of Amos A. Lawrence, taken from a crayon sketch. Given by Amory A. Lawrence.

A bird's-eye view of Coronado Beach and City of San Diego, California; also a view of the Hotel del Coronado. Given by Dr. Samuel A. Green.

A bronze medal of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, struck to commemorate its two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, 1888. Given by the Company.



A copper-plate engraving of Gen. James Wilkinson. Given by John Mason Brown.

A sheet of nine shinplasters (two of five cents, two of ten, two of twenty-five, and two of fifty), used at Young's Hotel, each having the engraving of Gov. Nathaniel P. Banks, signed by George Young, Boston, and bearing date Oct. 1, and Nov. 1, 1862. Given by Mr. Young.

A photograph of three clay pipes found in the wreck which was dug out of the sand at Nawset Beach in 1863. Given by Charles Deane.

An engraving of Sir Francis Bernard, by J. A. J. Wilcox, from a painting in the possession of the family, for the "Club of Odd Volumes." Given by William Clarence Burrage.

It may be added that the general condition of the Cabinet is, on the whole, satisfactory. Two portraits have been repaired, and a catalogue of the medals is in preparation. The want of room for the better arrangement of the Cabinet, as has been alluded to in previous Reports, is a subject that may possibly have come under the consideration of the Committee appointed at the last meeting on the Library and Cabinet.

All which is respectfully submitted,

FITCH EDWARD OLIVER, *Cabinet-keeper.*

Boston, April 11, 1889.

### *Report of the Treasurer.*

In compliance with the requirements of the By-Laws, Chapter VII., Article 1, the Treasurer respectfully submits his Annual Report, made up to March 30, 1889.

The special funds held by him are eleven in number, and are as follows:—

I. THE APPLETON FUND, which was created Nov. 18, 1854, by a gift to the Society, from Nathan Appleton, William Appleton, and Nathaniel I. Bowditch, trustees under the will of the late Samuel Appleton, of stocks of the appraised value of ten thousand dollars. These stocks were subsequently sold for \$12,203, at which sum the fund now stands. The income is applicable to "the procuring, preserving, preparation, and publication of historical papers."

II. THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL TRUST-FUND, which now stands, with the accumulated income, at \$10,000. This fund originated in a gift of two thousand dollars from the late

Hon. David Sears, presented Oct. 15, 1855, and accepted by the Society Nov. 8, 1855. On Dec. 26, 1866, it was increased by a gift of five hundred dollars from Mr. Sears, and another of the same amount from our late associate, Mr. Nathaniel Thayer. The income must be appropriated in accordance with the directions in Mr. Sears's declaration of trust in the printed Proceedings for November, 1855.

III. THE DOWSE FUND, which was given to the Society by George Livermore and Eben. Dale, executors of the will of the late Thomas Dowse, April 9, 1857, for the "safe keeping" of the Dowse Library. It amounts to \$10,000.

IV. THE PEABODY FUND, which was presented by the late George Peabody, in a letter dated Jan. 1, 1867, and now stands at \$22,123. It is invested in the seven per cent bonds of the Boston and Albany Railroad Co., payable in 1892, for \$21,000, and a deposit in the Suffolk Savings Bank amounting, with the last addition of interest, to \$700.59. The income is available only for the publication and illustration of the Society's Proceedings and Memoirs, and for the preservation of the Society's Historical Portraits.

V. THE SAVAGE FUND, which was a bequest from the late Hon. James Savage, received in June, 1873, and now stands on the books at the sum of \$6,000. The income is to be used for the increase of the Society's Library.

VI. THE ERASTUS B. BIGELOW FUND, which was given in February, 1881, by Mrs. Helen Bigelow Merriman, in recognition of her father's interest in the work of the Society. The original sum was one thousand dollars; but the interest up to this date having been added to the principal, it now stands at \$1,593.18. There is no restriction as to the use to be made of this fund.

VII. THE WILLIAM WINTHROP FUND, which amounts to the sum of \$3,000, and was received Oct. 13, 1882, under the will of the late William Winthrop, for many years a Corresponding Member of the Society. The income is to be applied "to the binding for better preservation of the valuable manuscripts and books appertaining to the Society."

VIII. THE RICHARD FROTHINGHAM FUND, which represents a gift to the Society, on the 23d of March, 1883, from the widow of our late Treasurer, of a certificate of twenty

shares in the Union Stock Yard and Transit Co., of Chicago, of the par value of \$100 each, and of the stereotype plates of Mr. Frothingham's "Siege of Boston," "Life of Joseph Warren," and "Rise of the Republic," in which it is still invested. The fund stands on the Treasurer's books at \$3,000. There are no restrictions on the uses to which the income may be applied.

IX. THE GENERAL FUND, which now amounts to \$7,850. It represents the following gifts and payments to the Society: —

1. A gift of two thousand dollars from the residuary estate of the late MARY PRINCE TOWNSEND, by the executors of her will, William Minot and William Minot, Jr., in recognition of which, by a vote of the Society, passed June 13, 1861, the Treasurer was "directed to make and keep a special entry in his account books of this contribution as the donation of Miss Mary P. Townsend."

2. A legacy of two thousand dollars from the late HENRY HARRIS, received in July, 1867.

3. A legacy of one thousand dollars from the late GEORGE BEMIS, received in March, 1879.

4. A gift of one hundred dollars from the late RALPH WALDO EMERSON, received in April, 1881.

5. A legacy of one thousand dollars from the late WILLIAMS LATHAM, received in May, 1884.

6. A bequest of five shares in the Cincinnati Gas-Light and Coke Co. from our late Recording Secretary, GEORGE DEXTER, received in June, 1884.

7. Five commutation fees of one hundred and fifty dollars each.

X. THE ANONYMOUS FUND, which originated in a gift of \$1,000 to the Society in April, 1887, communicated in a letter to the Treasurer printed in the Proceedings (2d series, vol. iii. pp. 277, 278). A further gift of \$250 was received from the same generous friend in April, 1888. The income up to the present time has been added to the principal. The fund now stands at \$1,379.

XI. THE WILLIAM AMORY FUND, which was a gift of \$3,000, under the will of our associate, the late WILLIAM AMORY, received Jan. 7, 1889. There are no restrictions on the uses to which the income may be applied.

The Treasurer also holds a deposit book in the Five Cent Savings Bank for \$100, the interest of which is applicable to the care and preservation of the beautiful model of the Brattle Street Church, which was deposited with us in April, 1877.

Of these funds two — the Peabody Fund and the Richard Frothingham Fund — are invested separately, as has been stated above. The other funds, which stand on the Treasurer's books at \$55,025.18, are represented in part by the following securities: \$10,000 in the five per cent mortgage bonds of the Chicago and West Michigan Railroad Co., registered in the name of the Society, and payable in 1921; \$5,000 in the five per cent first mortgage bonds of the Chicago, Kansas, and Western Railroad Co., registered in the name of the Society, and payable in 1926; \$1,000 in an eight per cent mortgage bond of the Quincy and Palmyra Railroad Co., not registered, and payable in 1892; forty shares in the State National Bank of Boston, of the par value of \$100 each; twenty-five shares in the Merchants' National Bank of Boston, of the par value of \$100 each; twenty shares in the National Bank of Commerce of Boston, of the par value of \$100 each; five shares in the Cincinnati Gas-Light and Coke Co., of the par value of \$100 each; and a receipt for a certificate of one share in the Boston Gas-Light Co., of the par value of \$500, for which \$1,200 is to be paid in cash April 5. The aggregate amount at which these securities stand on the books is \$28,888.50. The balance (\$26,136.68) is an incumbrance on the real estate, and shows a reduction of \$6,601.27 during the year in the amount of our funds which have been temporarily invested in the building.

It should not be forgotten that besides the gifts and bequests represented by these funds, which the Treasurer is required to take notice of in his Annual Report, numerous gifts have been made to the Society from time to time, and expended for the purchase of the real estate, or in promoting the objects for which the Society was organized. A detailed account of these gifts was included in the Annual Report of the Treasurer, dated March 31, 1887; and in the list of the givers there enumerated will be found the names of many honored associates, living or departed, and of other gentlemen, not members of the Society, who were interested in the promotion of historical studies. They gave liberally in the day of small things; and to them the Society is largely indebted for its present prosperity and usefulness.

The following abstracts and the trial balance show the present condition of the several accounts:—

## CASH ACCOUNT.

|           |   | DEBITS.     |                    |
|-----------|---|-------------|--------------------|
| 1888.     |   |             |                    |
| March 31. | To balance on hand . . . . .                            |             | \$298.45           |
| 1889.     |   |             |                    |
| March 30. | To receipts as follows:—                                |             |                    |
|           | General Account . . . . .                               | 10,744.03   |                    |
|           | William Amory Fund . . . . .                            | 3,000.00    |                    |
|           | Anonymous Fund . . . . .                                | 250.00      |                    |
|           | Consolidated Income . . . . .                           | 1,214.47    |                    |
|           | Income of Peabody Fund . . . . .                        | 1,470.00    |                    |
|           | Income of Richard Frothingham Fund . . . . .            | 207.60      |                    |
|           |   |             | <u>\$17,184.55</u> |
| March 30. | To balance brought down . . . . .                       |             | \$379.56           |
|           |   | CREDITS.    |                    |
| 1889.     |   |             |                    |
| March 30. | By payments as follows:—                                |             |                    |
|           | Investments . . . . .                                   | \$10,020.00 |                    |
|           | Income of Peabody Fund . . . . .                        | 326.53      |                    |
|           | Income of Savage Fund . . . . .                         | 251.55      |                    |
|           | Income of William Winthrop Fund . . . . .               | 46.35       |                    |
|           | Income of Appleton Fund . . . . .                       | 647.87      |                    |
|           | Income of Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund . . . . . | 1,182.86    |                    |
|           | Income of Richard Frothingham Fund . . . . .            | 55.00       |                    |
|           | Consolidated Income . . . . .                           | 21.38       |                    |
|           | General Account . . . . .                               | 4,253.45    |                    |
|           | By balance on hand . . . . .                            | 379.56      |                    |
|           |   |             | <u>\$17,184.55</u> |

## GENERAL ACCOUNT.

|           |  | DEBITS.  |                    |
|-----------|--|----------|--------------------|
| 1888.     |  |          |                    |
| March 31. | To balance brought forward . . . . .         |          | \$3,195.77         |
| 1889.     |  |          |                    |
| March 30. | To sundry payments:—                         |          |                    |
|           | Salaries of Librarian's Assistants . . . . . | 2,300.00 |                    |
|           | Insurance . . . . .                          | 333.00   |                    |
|           | Printing Sewall's Letter Book . . . . .      | 708.49   |                    |
|           | Printing, stationery, and postage . . . . .  | 145.21   |                    |
|           | Cataloguing manuscripts . . . . .            | 127.00   |                    |
|           | Fuel and light . . . . .                     | 158.50   |                    |
|           | Care of fire, etc. . . . .                   | 304.31   |                    |
|           | Miscellaneous expenses and repairs . . . . . | 176.94   |                    |
|           | Consolidated Income . . . . .                | 1,850.61 |                    |
|           | Building Account . . . . .                   | 6,601.27 |                    |
|           |  |          | <u>\$15,901.10</u> |
| March 30. | To balance brought down . . . . .            |          | \$4,555.09         |

## CREDITS.

|           |                                     |                    |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1889.     |                                     |                    |
| March 30. | By sundry receipts :—               |                    |
|           | Rent of Building . . . . .          | \$9,000.00         |
|           | Interest . . . . .                  | 38.44              |
|           | Income of Dowse Fund . . . . .      | 601.98             |
|           | Admission Fees . . . . .            | 25.00              |
|           | Assessments . . . . .               | 820.00             |
|           | Sales of publications . . . . .     | 860.59             |
|           | By balance to new account . . . . . | 4,555.09           |
|           |                                     | <u>\$15,901.10</u> |

*Income of Appleton Fund.*

## DEBITS.

|           |                                     |                   |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1889.     |                                     |                   |
| March 30. | To amount paid copyists . . . . .   | \$647.87          |
|           | „ balance carried forward . . . . . | 3,644.40          |
|           |                                     | <u>\$4,292.27</u> |

## CREDITS.

|           |   |                   |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| 1888.     |   |                   |
| March 31. | By balance brought forward . . . . .          | \$3,557.68        |
| 1889.     |   |                   |
| March 30. | „ proportion of consolidated income . . . . . | 734.59            |
|           |   | <u>\$4,292.27</u> |
| March 30. | By balance brought down . . . . .             | \$3,644.40        |

*Income of William Winthrop Fund.*

## DEBITS.

|           |                                      |                 |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1889.     |                                      |                 |
| March 30. | To amount paid for binding . . . . . | \$ 46.35        |
|           | „ balance carried forward . . . . .  | 144.38          |
|           |                                      | <u>\$190.73</u> |

## CREDITS.

|           |   |                 |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| 1888.     |   |                 |
| March 31. | By balance brought forward . . . . .          | \$10.14         |
| 1889.     |   |                 |
| March 30. | „ proportion of consolidated income . . . . . | 180.59          |
|           |   | <u>\$190.73</u> |
| March 30. | By balance brought down . . . . .             | \$144.38        |

*Income of Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund.*

## DEBITS.

|           |   |                   |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| 1889.     |   |                   |
| March 30. | To amount paid on account of 5 Coll. X. . . . . | \$1,182.86        |
|           | „ balance carried forward . . . . .             | 929.96            |
|           |   | <u>\$2,112.82</u> |

## CREDITS.

|           |   |                   |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| 1888.     |   |                   |
| March 31. | By amount brought forward . . . . .           | \$1,510.84        |
| 1889.     |   |                   |
| March 30. | „ proportion of consolidated income . . . . . | 601.98            |
|           |   | <u>\$2,112.82</u> |
| March 31. | By balance brought down . . . . .             | \$929.96          |

*Income of Richard Frothingham Fund.*

## DEBITS.

|           |                                       |                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1889.     |                                       |                 |
| March 30. | To amount paid for printing . . . . . | \$55.00         |
|           | “ balance carried forward . . . . .   | 767.90          |
|           |                                       | <u>\$822.90</u> |

## CREDITS.

|           |                                      |                 |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1888.     |                                      |                 |
| March 31. | By balance brought forward . . . . . | \$615.30        |
| 1889.     |                                      |                 |
| March 30. | „ dividends received . . . . .       | 160.00          |
|           | „ copyright received . . . . .       | 47.60           |
|           |                                      | <u>\$822.90</u> |
| March 30. | By amount brought down . . . . .     | \$767.90        |

*Income of Dowse Fund.*

## DEBITS.

|           |   |          |
|-----------|---|----------|
| 1889.     |   |          |
| March 30. | To amount placed to credit of General Account . . . . . | \$601.98 |

## CREDITS.

|           |  |          |
|-----------|--|----------|
| 1889.     |  |          |
| March 30. | By proportion of consolidated income . . . . . | \$601.98 |

*Income of Peabody Fund.*

## DEBITS.

|           |  |                   |
|-----------|--|-------------------|
| 1888.     |  |                   |
| March 31. | To balance brought forward . . . . .     | \$2,749.74        |
| 1889.     |  |                   |
| March 30. | „ amount paid for printing, etc. . . . . | 326.53            |
|           |  | <u>\$3,076.27</u> |
| March 30. | To balance brought down . . . . .        | \$1,606.27        |

## CREDITS.

|           |  |                   |
|-----------|--|-------------------|
| 1889.     |  |                   |
| March 30. | By one year's interest on railroad bonds . . . . . | \$1,470.00        |
|           | „ balance carried forward . . . . .                | 1,606.27          |
|           |  | <u>\$3,076.27</u> |

*Income of Savage Fund.*

| 1889.     |   | DEBITS.  |                 |
|-----------|---|----------|-----------------|
| March 30. | To amount paid for books . . . . .            | \$251.55 |                 |
|           | „ balance carried forward . . . . .           | 222.63   |                 |
|           |   |          | <u>\$474.18</u> |
| 1888.     |   | CREDITS. |                 |
| March 31. | By balance brought forward . . . . .          | \$113.00 |                 |
| 1889.     |   |          |                 |
| March 30. | „ proportion of consolidated income . . . . . | 361.18   |                 |
|           |   |          | <u>\$474.18</u> |
| March 30. | By balance brought down . . . . .             | \$222.63 |                 |

## TRIAL BALANCE.

|   |  | DEBITS.     |                     |
|---|--|-------------|---------------------|
| Cash . . . . .  |  | \$379.56    |                     |
| Real Estate . . . . .                                   |  | 103,280.19  |                     |
| Investments . . . . .                                   |  | 54,011.50   |                     |
| Income of Peabody Fund . . . . .                        |  | 1,606.27    |                     |
| General Account . . . . .                               |  | 4,555.09    |                     |
|   |  |             | <u>\$163,832.61</u> |
|   |  | CREDITS.    |                     |
| Building Account . . . . .                              |  | \$77,143.51 |                     |
| Appleton Fund . . . . .                                 |  | 12,203.00   |                     |
| Dowse Fund . . . . .                                    |  | 10,000.00   |                     |
| Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund . . . . .           |  | 10,000.00   |                     |
| Peabody Fund . . . . .                                  |  | 22,123.00   |                     |
| Savage Fund . . . . .                                   |  | 6,000.00    |                     |
| Erastus B. Bigelow Fund . . . . .                       |  | 1,593.18    |                     |
| William Winthrop Fund . . . . .                         |  | 3,000.00    |                     |
| Richard Frothingham Fund . . . . .                      |  | 3,000.00    |                     |
| General Fund . . . . .                                  |  | 7,850.00    |                     |
| Anonymous Fund . . . . .                                |  | 1,379.00    |                     |
| William Amory Fund . . . . .                            |  | 3,000.00    |                     |
| Income of Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund . . . . . |  | 929.96      |                     |
| Income of Appleton Fund . . . . .                       |  | 3,644.40    |                     |
| Income of Savage Fund . . . . .                         |  | 222.63      |                     |
| Income of William Winthrop Fund . . . . .               |  | 144.38      |                     |
| Income of Richard Frothingham Fund . . . . .            |  | 767.90      |                     |
| Income of General Fund . . . . .                        |  | 789.15      |                     |
| Income of W. Amory Fund . . . . .                       |  | 42.50       |                     |
|   |  |             | <u>\$163,832.61</u> |

From the gift, acknowledged in the Treasurer's Annual Report for 1887, for cataloguing the manuscripts, the sum of \$693 has been expended in cataloguing the Trumbull Papers; and the sum of \$307 remains at the disposal of the Committee



having the matter in charge. The sum of \$570 has been paid from the income of the Appleton Fund, under the direction of the Committee to procure a Calendar of the Pickering Manuscripts. In consequence of the great cost of publishing the Early Proceedings, and the Consolidated Index to the Proceedings, the income of the Peabody Fund was charged with a heavy debt. This debt was reduced \$1,143.47 during the year, and will be wholly extinguished within a reasonable length of time, as the income is much more than sufficient for the publication of a volume as often as one can be prepared. After paying for the volume of Winthrop Papers, which will be ready at the Annual Meeting, a sufficient sum will remain to the credit of the income of the Appleton Fund to defray the cost of two more volumes of Collections; and there is nearly enough to the credit of the Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund for the publication of another volume.

CHARLES C. SMITH,

*Treasurer.*

Boston, March 30, 1889.

*Report of the Auditing Committee.*

The undersigned, one of a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the Massachusetts Historical Society, as made up to March 30, 1889, has attended to his duty, and reports that he finds them correctly kept and properly vouched; that the securities held by the Treasurer for the several funds correspond with the statement in his Annual Report; that the balance of cash on hand is satisfactorily accounted for; and that the Trial Balance is accurately taken from the Ledger.

GEORGE B. CHASE, *Committee.*<sup>1</sup>

Boston, April 10, 1889.

The special Committee on the Library and Cabinet then made the following Report:—

The Committee appointed to examine the Library and Cabinet of the Society has attended to that duty, and begs leave

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Perkins, the other member of the Auditing Committee, was absent from the city for several days after the Treasurer's accounts were made up, and was therefore unable to serve.

to report that the time at its disposal has been too limited to admit of an exhaustive examination of the contents of the Library with a view to making recommendations in reference to its several departments. Moreover, as it is but reasonable to assume that the general contents and value of our collections are well known by the Society, the Committee does not feel that it is necessary in this Report to enlarge upon them.

The Committee finds the rooms occupied by the Library very much crowded, the shelves filled to overflowing, the natural accession of books far beyond its capacity to dispose of so that they can readily be made use of, and even the floor space so occupied that little or no working room is left.

Meanwhile the Cabinet is most inadequately provided for, and many of its interesting and valuable articles can neither be cared for nor properly exhibited for lack of room. This is most discouraging, for the articles in the Cabinet would be most likely to interest the occasional visitor to our rooms; and if they could be displayed, many strangers would be glad to come to see them. Further, they would in time probably be largely increased by gifts on the part of those who would secure permanent preservation for their treasured heirlooms of historical value and significance by depositing them with an institution where they would be preserved and could be seen. We are in no condition now to invite gifts of this nature, because we have so little room in which to put them; and possible donors, seeing our cramped and unsatisfactory quarters, are likely to seek other resting-places for their valuables, and overlook us in their distribution.

It is frequently the case that persons come long distances to consult works on our shelves that are not easily found elsewhere. Now we have no fit place to offer such persons to work in, nor have we really room for our own members to study and consult the books in the Library at their leisure and convenience. It is true there is this room, and this table, where members can work; and the Librarian and his assistants are most accommodating, and always ready to help them in their studies by bringing them such books as they desire to consult. But every one who has had occasion to use books in research knows how much more satisfactory it is to go to the shelves

to examine and consult them, to take down one and another as he wants to use them; and how he thus frequently finds facts of which he previously knew nothing, and becomes more familiar with his subject than in any other way.

While it might not be practicable to allow general students free and unlimited access to our shelves, it would seem desirable for our members to avail themselves of the privilege; and it would be for the advantage of the Society to encourage them to make use of the Library in the freest manner and to the fullest extent, by providing every facility for them to work in it as easily as in their own.

If the Society could afford to use for its own purposes the whole of this building, when it comes into its possession on the expiration of the lease to the County of Suffolk, the two additional floors would afford valuable working rooms, and accommodate all accessions likely to be made to the Library or Cabinet for several years; but it is generally understood that those stories must continue to be used as a source of income, and it is therefore useless to speculate on what might be done if circumstances were different. For many years to come we must continue confined to our present accommodations, and the Committee thinks that the great and pressing question before the Society is how they can be used to the best advantage.

Increased room might, perhaps, be secured for new books and for working purposes by weeding out some of the books now on the shelves, and by restricting future acquisitions to a definite and restricted field, and refusing to occupy any other. To a certain extent this latter course is inevitable. When our Society was organized its object was declared to be, "to collect, preserve, and communicate materials for a complete history of the country." No limitation of aims was made in behalf of the State or of New England. Societies formed later, in defining their object, either give the State precedence of the United States, or omit the United States entirely. The existence of so many other societies naturally tends to lead us to occupy a field more narrow than that contemplated by our founders.

If this weeding-out process were to be undertaken with the books we now have, it would be very hard to decide where it should begin or end. Unquestionably, our collection of mate-

rials for the local history of the State could not be touched, for that ought always to be kept as full as possible, and much that relates to it, though seemingly ephemeral or valueless, must be preserved for a possible use. A beginning certainly cannot be made there.

While the Committee might offer some suggestions in this direction, it has not thought it expedient to do so, because it believes that, by a more economical use of our present accommodations, much more room than now could be gained, and the result desired reached.

Besides the rooms on this story, the Society has on the story above a large room, as large as the front room and the Dowse Library together; a room at the rear, the size of the room containing the bound newspapers, in which is our very full and valuable collection of matter relating to the Rebellion; and a large room on the front of the building, about  $14 \times 16$  feet, filled with pamphlets. The story above that contains as much space, with the exception of the little room at the rear, but is much higher studded.

In the opinion of the Committee, it is desirable that a book-stack should be put in the centre of the room in the upper story, and the cases now at the sides carried up to the ceiling.

The Committee made an examination of the new stacks at the Boston Athenæum, which seem to have been admirably contrived. Taking the measurements of these and of the aisles between, they find that ten stacks can be ranged across the room with ample aisles between each,—an aisle two feet four inches wide at the side nearest the wall, and an aisle four feet wide by the windows. This latter width will make it possible to put a small table at each window for the use of copyists, or cataloguers of the Society, or of members who wish to take books from the stack and make notes from them without the trouble of taking them downstairs, and at the same time allow room for any one to pass comfortably through the aisle from stack to stack, even when workers are at the tables.

The number of windows in this room, and the large open space, never likely to be built upon, at the side of the building, render it probable that, even with the stack, the room will always have sufficient light, and that there will be little

difficulty in finding books in any part of it at any season of the year, during the hours that the Library is open, especially if any part of the walls not covered by books should be painted of a light color. If, however, it should prove that greater light was needed, it could easily be gained by putting skylights in the roof, or by using, as at the Athenæum, incandescent electric hand-lights. The books, too, could be so arranged that those least likely to be called for could be placed on the wall, or at the ends of the stacks farthest from the windows. In a library like ours this would not involve much difficulty, as there are many volumes of State and National documents which are hardly called for once or twice in a decade, but could be easily got when wanted.

The Committee would recommend that the capacity of the little room at the front of the building, now used to store the Society's publications kept for sale, be enlarged by placing one or two stacks, or a row of bins, in the centre. This would give room for a large quantity of volumes, which must always be kept on hand to meet possible demands, and which now, in consequence of our inadequate accommodations, cumber the floor.

The stack in the larger room, proposed by the Committee, could be arranged in two stories, with a gallery about six or six and a half feet from the ground, extending around the room, and would hold, by the usual estimates of librarians, about forty thousand volumes, while the cases on the walls would hold about ten thousand more; so that by this arrangement fully fifty thousand volumes could be stacked on the upper floor.

Descending to the next story, the Committee would recommend the utilization of the large room as a working room. The removal of the books from the centre of the room, which would be possible at once after the stack was provided upstairs, would give a clear space in which chairs and tables which could easily be moved from place to place might be put. The books here most likely to be called for could be made accessible in the cases alongside the walls, while a portion of the front of the room could advantageously be used for the arrangement and display of the Cabinet, though for that the Committee would prefer another arrangement to be mentioned later. At any rate, by lowering the cases against the walls,

room could be gained for hanging many of the valuable pictures in our possession above them.

The front room, now used as a pamphlet room, being treated in the same way as the room above it, and having two or more stacks erected in it, could be made to hold many more pamphlets than now, until they were ready to be bound and placed on the shelves.

The Committee would recommend that the Society's newspapers be bound as soon, and to as large an extent, as possible. They can then be shelved and used, instead of, as now, filling the floor space. If the funds of the Society will permit, many volumes of pamphlets might also be bound, thus giving increased room.

A large change in the outer or reception room of the floor on which we now are, seems very desirable. Retaining the Librarian's desk, and the bookcases immediately surrounding it, the Committee would advise removing the rest of the books to the next, or the upper, story, and using the wall space thus gained for hanging the more valuable and interesting pictures of the Cabinet, utilizing the remainder of the floor space to display the articles of the Cabinet especially interesting to visitors. Practical objections to this plan may be made, in consequence of which it may be better to accommodate the Cabinet on the floor above this, as previously suggested in speaking of that floor; but, in the opinion of the Committee, it would be of greater advantage to the Society to re-arrange this floor, and leave that above it, as far as possible, unobstructed for a working room.

The Committee prefers the upper story for a stack room, in spite of its greater distance from the Librarian and the room ordinarily frequented by visitors, because its greater height would better enable the proposed stack to be made in two stories, thus permitting a much more economical use of the space at our disposal, and furnishing accommodations for a much larger number of books; it also affords better and cheaper means for securing increased light, if it proves to be needed, by the use of skylights. The practical objections to the plan which have presented themselves appear to be of slight importance and easily done away with. The cases which would be left on the second story, even though lowered in height, would hold the largest part of the books most fre-

quently used. Those carried above would be so little called for that the time and strength required to go to them, when they were needed, would not be excessive, and, as the Library is used rather for consultation and study than for circulation, need hardly be seriously considered. Further, an elevator might easily be put into the building, in the well of the stairway, which would be a very desirable improvement if the rearrangement of the Library now proposed should lead to its more general use by members or visitors.

Other things have occurred to the Committee as desirable to call attention to, but of these it will not now speak. The time between its appointment and this meeting has been too brief for them to be fully considered, and it has accordingly thought it better to confine itself in this Report to the one practical suggestion that seems most important for securing proper preservation of the valuable works in the Library, an intelligent and practical use of it by the members of the Society especially, and others, for the purposes for which it has been collected, and an opportunity for exhibiting the Cabinet. It does not appear to the Committee that the time has yet come to enter upon the process of weeding out the contents of the Library, of which it has spoken; but in the constantly increasing pressure upon the Library to find places for new accessions, provision must soon be made for accommodating a much larger number of books than now, or that process resorted to. If in the future care is taken, in adding new volumes, to keep in the somewhat restricted fields, which the multiplication of new societies of kindred nature with our own renders possible, the plan recommended in this Report would provide not only for all our present books and pamphlets, but for all the probable accessions of the next ten or twenty years, beside furnishing adequate working room for students, whether members or not, and accessible quarters for the Cabinet.

Unless something of this kind is soon done, there will be no recourse but the weeding-out process at no very distant date. Even if the Society should prefer trying that to adopting and carrying out, wholly or partially, the recommendations of this Committee, and undertake something in that direction at once, it would, with our present shelf room, furnish only partial and temporary relief, and before a great while something of the

kind recommended by the Committee would have to be tried, as our shelf room, entirely inadequate to our present needs, would in a very short time be again in as crowded a state as at present.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY F. JENKS,  
EDWARD J. LOWELL, } *Committee.*  
O. B. FROTHINGHAM,

It was voted that this Report be accepted as a partial report, and be referred to the Council, and that the Treasurer and Librarian be added to the Committee.

The PRESIDENT then invited the members of the Society to meet at his house in the afternoon, where a social hour was enjoyed and a collation was served.

Mr. R. C. WINTHROP, Jr., from the committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year, reported the following list, which, by ballot, was unanimously elected:—

*President.*

GEORGE EDWARD ELLIS, D.D., LL.D. . . . . BOSTON.

*Vice-Presidents.*

CHARLES DEANE, LL.D. . . . . CAMBRIDGE.

FRANCIS PARKMAN, LL.D. . . . . BOSTON.

*Recording Secretary.*

EDWARD JAMES YOUNG, D.D. . . . . WALTHAM.

*Corresponding Secretary.*

JUSTIN WINSOR, LL.D. . . . . CAMBRIDGE.

*Treasurer.*

CHARLES CARD SMITH, A.M. . . . . BOSTON.

*Librarian.*

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN, M.D. . . . . BOSTON.

*Cabinet-keeper.*

FITCH EDWARD OLIVER, M.D. . . . . BOSTON.

*Members at Large of the Council.*

JOHN LOWELL, LL.D. . . . . NEWTON.

GEORGE SILSBEE HALE, A.M. . . . . BOSTON.

WILLIAM WATSON GOODWIN, LL.D. . . . . CAMBRIDGE.

JOSIAH PHILLIPS QUINCY, A.M. . . . . BOSTON.

ROGER WOLCOTT, LL.B. . . . . BOSTON.